decision on 5.2.2007 as per Section 5(2) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. With submission of report and decision under Section 5(2) of the Act, Central Government or the State Governments concerned are entitled to seek explanation and guidance from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the Act within three months from the date of decision. For this purpose, a set of report has been sent to Central Water Commission on 7.2.2007 for suggesting suitable reference points on the report and decision of the Tribunal for seeking explanation and guidance from the Tribunal.

(c) Occurrence and distribution of rainfall in Karnataka is uneven. On an average, more that 2/3rd of the State receives less than 750 millimeter rainfall spread over 55 days. Use of ground water for irrigation, drinking water as well as for industry has increased manifolds during the recent decades. Further, more than 97% area of the State is underlain by hard rocks, which have limited ground water potential. As per the latest assessment of ground water resources as on March, 2004, the stage of ground water development in the State is 70% of the annual replenishable resource. Out of 175 talukas in the state, 65 talukas are over exploited and significant decline has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period.

Agitation against decision of Cauvery Tribunal

256. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been widespread agitation in Karnataka against the decision of Cauvery Tribunal on distribution of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Central Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what is the action plan for inter-linking of rivers and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information available in this Ministry a call for bandh on February 6, 2007 in protest against the decision of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

(CWDT) evoked response in Bangalore (rural), Mandya, Chikmagalur, Chamarajanagar, Tumkur and Mysore districts of Karnataka. By and large, the situation throughout the State has remained peaceful. Another call for 12-hour state wide bandh given by the Kannada protagonist and farmer organizations for February 12, 2007 in protest against the decision of CWDT evoked near total response in the Cauvery basin districts of Bangalore, Mandya Mysore, Kolar, Hassan, Tumkur, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar. The bandh also evoked complete response in Bellary, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Shimoga, Raichur and Chikmagalur districts also. Barring few incidents, the bandh passed off peacefully in the State. Appropriate precautionary steps were taken by the State keeping in view of the Bandh calls.

(c) The then Ministry of Irrigation (now Water Resources) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in August 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan.

Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of interbasin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP.

NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under National Perspective (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of feasibility reports. NWDA has so far prepared feasibility reports (FRs) for 14 links under Peninsular Component & 2 under Himalayan Component (Indian portion only). Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link *viz.* Ken — Betwa under Peninsular Component has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005.

The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreement with the concerned neighbouring countries.